

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A steering-column assembly  $[(1)]$  for a motor vehicle, having an outer casing tube  $[(2)]$ , a telescopic inner casing tube  $[(2.1)]$  and a telescopic drive  $[(5)]$  having a spindle nut  $[(5.6)]$ , a telescopic spindle  $[(5.1)]$  which is fastened to the inner casing tube  $[(2.1)]$  via a crash element  $[(4)]$ , and a telescopic motor  $[(5.2)]$  having a step-down gear mechanism  $[(5.3)]$ , ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the crash element  $[(4)]$  is of at least partially hollow configuration and accommodates the spindle nut  $[(5.6)]$ .

2. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the crash element  $[(4)]$  is formed by a sleeve  $[(4.1)]$  and a pin  $[(4.2)]$  which is positioned coaxially with respect to the sleeve  $[(4.1)]$ , is at least partially inserted into the sleeve  $[(4.1)]$  at one end side of the sleeve  $[(4.1)]$  and is fastened to the sleeve  $[(4.1)]$ .

3. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein or 2, characterized in that~~ the telescopic spindle  $[(5.1)]$  is connected via a flexible drive shaft  $[(5.4)]$  to an output shaft of the step-down gear mechanism  $[(5.3)]$ , the opposite side of the telescopic spindle  $[(5.1)]$  from the spindle nut  $[(5.6)]$  being mounted rotatably in a bearing block  $[(5.5)]$  which is structurally separate from the step-down gear mechanism  $[(5.3)]$ .

4. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the tensile and compressive forces which are produced during telescoping of the inner casing tube  $[(2.1)]$  in the direction of a longitudinal axis  $[(x)]$  of the telescopic spindle  $[(5.1)]$  are passed directly from the telescopic spindle  $[(5.1)]$  to a part of the vehicle body via the bearing block  $[(5.5)]$ .

5. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the outer casing tube  $[(2)]$  can be pivoted about a y-axis by a pivot drive  $[(6)]$  which has a spindle nut  $[(5.6)]$ , a spindle  $[(6.1)]$  and a flexible drive shaft  $[(6.4)]$ , the spindle  $[(6.1)]$  being connected via the flexible drive shaft  $[(6.4)]$  to an output shaft of a step-down gear mechanism  $[(6.3)]$ , and the opposite

side of the spindle  $[(6.1)]$  from the spindle nut  $[(5.6)]$  being mounted rotatably in a bearing block  $[(6.5)]$  which is structurally separate from the step-down gear mechanism  $[(5.3)]$ .

6. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the longitudinal axis  $[(x, x')]$  and the rotational axis  $[(a)]$  of the output shaft of the step-down gear mechanism  $(5.3, 6.3)$ , which output shaft is connected directly to the flexible drive shaft  $(5.4, 6.4)$ , enclose an angle  $[(\alpha)]$  between  $135^\circ$  and  $180^\circ$ .

7. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the tensile and compressive forces which are produced during pivoting of the outer casing tube  $[(2)]$  in the direction of a longitudinal axis  $[(x')]$  of the spindle  $[(6.1)]$  are passed directly from the spindle  $[(6.1)]$  to a part of the vehicle body via the bearing block  $[(6.5)]$ .

8. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the spindle nut  $(5.6, 6.6)$  which engages with the telescopic spindle  $[(5.1)]$  or with the spindle  $[(6.1)]$  and the flexible drive shaft  $(5.4, 6.4)$  which is connected to the telescopic spindle  $[(5.1)]$  or the spindle  $[(6.1)]$  are formed at least partially from plastic.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the flexible drive shaft  $(5.4, 6.4)$  is mounted in the bearing block  $(5.5, 6.5)$  in a manner which is connected on the output side to the telescopic spindle  $[(5.1)]$  or to the spindle  $[(6.1)]$ , and is mounted in the step-down gear mechanism  $(5.3, 6.3)$  in a manner which is connected on the input side to the output shaft.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the step-down gear mechanism  $(5.3, 6.3)$  and/or the motor  $(5.2, 6.2)$  are/is mounted on the vehicle body by a bearing  $(5.7, 6.7)$  which is formed at least partially from plastic.